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Friday, December 7, 2012

EID-Colo.: Guest column by EID's Simon Lomax on economic revitalization stemming from shale (12/6)

EID-Marcellus: Binghamton mayor makes fool out of himself at shale education event (12/6)

NATIONAL

Activists create new anti-HF group out of thin air. E&E News (sub req'd). "If you're an activist who makes a living by denying both scientific consensus and public opinion, you're naturally going to find yourself on the losing end of the debate," said Steve Everley of Energy in Depth. "So, you really have two choices: Admit that your arguments don't mesh with reality and find a new career, or create another meaningless organization that offers nothing new to the discussion."

'Promised Land' putting HF in focus. Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Mr. Krasinski appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" on Monday and discussed hydraulic fracturing with the host. About 12 hours later, the Energy in Depth industry group website led with a blog post called, "Has It Come to This? Fact-Checking Jim from 'The Office' on HF," referencing the actor's role on the NBC sitcom.

Calif. conference talks HF advocacy, education. E&E News (sub. req'd). Energy in Depth has produced "Truthland," which strives to counter some of the arguments made in "Gasland." "Truthland" shows a man lighting water on fire at a home where there isn't any natural gas exploration nearby. "If you hear your friends talking about 'Gasland,' I would give them a copy of the movie," EID's Dave Quast said of "Truthland." "It's really important to debunk popular culture when it's out there debasing science."

Poll Finds Support Grows for Gas Drilling. Wall Street Journal. A Siena College poll of registered voters found 42% support hydrofracking, which involves injecting a well with millions of gallons of chemically treated water to crack rock deep underground. Another 36% oppose it and the rest of the respondents didn't express an opinion. Siena found that residents of upstate New York opposed hydrofracking 45% to 39%.

Pavillion driller blasts EPA contamination findings. E&E News (sub req'd). Encana's David Stewart, who handles environment, health and safety issues in Wyoming, said EPA's analysis of deep groundwater was misguided, and "EPA should withdraw the draft report." He said the agency was assuming natural gas development was the culprit instead of considering naturally occurring contaminants and other sources.

Energy Economics in One Lesson. Wall Street Journal, Editorial. America's shale gas boom is so promising that it has some people discombobulated—including, naturally, our politicians. The same folks who complain about America's trade deficit now want the U.S. government to ban the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG). This is one way to ruin what has been a very rare piece of good U.S. economic news.

US Leads World in Natural Gas Production. Institute for Energy Research, Blog. China leads the world in shale gas resources according to the Energy Information Administration, but the United States leads the world in shale gas production, with the world's second largest resources of shale gas.

Natural gas exports could boost US economy — but who will buy it? Washington Post. There's a growing debate about whether the United States should start exporting some of its natural gas wealth. After all, America is currently awash in cheap gas, thanks to advances in shale drilling. And natural gas prices are high in other countries. So why don't we just ship some of our supply overseas for a tidy profit?

Polls show split opinion on HF. IB Times. The efforts demonstrates a growing divide in the US. While some laud the sudden, dramatic growth of fracking because it is making the US energy independent and creating jobs, others are working hard to ban it because of its negative environmental and health impacts.

INTERNATIONAL

Shale helping lower heating bills. Vancouver Sun. You may have to pay a little more for heating this winter, but you won't be burning dollars. Canadian heating prices are expected to spike, although in many cases they will still be relatively low, industry reports suggest.

US shale success fires up local resources firms. The Australian. First, the petroleum-rich but hard-to-unlock rock unexpectedly turned a gas shortage into a glut, fuelling hopes of a manufacturing renaissance and export boom. Now it appears the US will regain its long-lost mantle of the world's biggest oil producer through shale oil and will become a gas exporter.

Exxon sells shale gas licences to Polish refiner PKN. Reuters. U.S. oil major Exxon Mobil agreed to sell two shale gas exploration concessions in Poland to the country's top refiner PKN Orlen for an undisclosed price, the groups said on Friday.

Fracking: Balcombe campaigners prepare for new fight. BBC News. Campaigners say they are braced for a new fight against fracking plans in West Sussex as the government earmarks tax breaks for the shale-gas industry.

Russia to break ground on \$20-billion gas pipeline to Europe. Alaska Dispatch. After years of deal-making brinksmanship with European rivals, Gazprom is surging ahead by launching construction Friday on a major new pipeline it hopes will cement its grip over Europe's energy supplies.

CALIFORNIA

Pro-HF report. Bakersfield Californian. You win some, you lose some, same in the oil industry as anywhere else. In this case we're referring to the high-stakes battle over the future of fracking, or hydraulic fracturing. It's the high-pressure injection technique that's becoming increasingly common in Kern County and elsewhere around the country.

Rules on oil and gas are way out of whack. Sacramento Bee, Editorial. Are regulators at the California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources free to make decisions in the public interest? Despite serious complaints voiced by farmers and environmentalists in Kern County, state regulators over the past year and more have waived environmental review for dozens of controversial new gas and oil drilling operations.

HF claims not borne out. Bloomington Pantagraph, LTE. Mr. Koch's appearance at a McLean County Chamber of Commerce event is encouraging: Local residents must have raised enough points critical of fracking that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce had to send in one of its national figures.

COLORADO

This is What Recovery Looks Like, Thanks to Shale. Colorado Energy News, Energy In Depth. It's not a mere coincidence that energy and manufacturing are surging together. Earlier this year, the Geneva-based World Economic Forum released a report which found "the availability of a secure supply of low-cost natural gas in the United States is restoring a global competitive advantage for many domestic gas-intensive industries." In fact, companies that make steel, aluminum, glass, cement and other products "are beginning to invest in the expansion of their U.S. operations based on the availability of low cost gas" from deep shale formations, according to the WEF.

Guv: Colorado won't sue Longmont over ban, but will back firms that do. Denver Business Journal. Colorado won't sue Longmont over a ballot initiative that bans hydraulic fracturing within city limits, but the state stands ready to support any oil and gas company that believes the ban on fracking constitutes a taking of its mineral rights, Gov. John Hickenlooper said Thursday.

Bobby Brown: Stand up against HF. Daily Camera, Op-Ed. As Elise Jones and her colleagues consider anti-fracking rules for Boulder County, I understand that opponents of these rules are claiming, "They will never hold up in court!" They may be right.

Longmont council will report on HF amendment executive session. Longmont Daily Times-Call. The Longmont City Council will release summaries of its closed-door sessions on Article 16, the city's anti-fracking charter amendment.

NORTHEAST

Shale Gas Keeps Region's Electric Costs Down. Philadelphia Public Record. Most public-utility executives expect the industry to become increasingly reliant on natural gas as a fuel to generate power. Also, they expect consumers to continue to see modest electric prices at least in the near term owing to low natural-gas prices.

Before drills have even touched shale, HF has created legal jobs. Business Review. New York state ends 2012 right where it started, in this sense: Fracking, a method of drilling for natural gas, remains forbidden. That leaves law firms still idling at the starting line—waiting for the state to approve or reject the controversial way of extracting natural gas from shale rock underground.

Lupardo wants NY HFpanel to reconvene. Press & Sun-Bulletin. Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, D-Endwell, wrote to Department of Environmental Conservation chief Joe Martens, expressing concerns she has over an in-progress review of the potential health impacts of hydrofracking and shale-gas drilling.

CCP faculty union urges severing ties with Marcellus Shale Coalition. Philadelphia Inquirer. The Community College of Philadelphia's faculty union has called on the college to sever ties with the Marcellus Shale Coalition after the industry trade group pledged \$15,000 to the school's new Energy Training Center.

State regulations will not make HF safe. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, LTE. Regulations will not make hydrofracking safe. The Independent Oil and Gas Association of New York is already complaining about the Department of Environmental Conservation's new proposed fracking regulations. What do you think will happen to these regulations once hydrofracking is allowed in New York?

OHIO

HF is an opportunity to transform quality of life in Ohio. Cleveland Plain Dealer, Op-Ed. We can learn a great deal about today's opportunity from the region's past. Many Appalachian Ohio communities were created by natural resource extraction. The mining of coal, iron ore and clay produced jobs, attracting people to settle in the region.

\$1 billion Ohio natural gas processing plant to open in May. Plain Dealer. Despite industry estimates that 15 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 5.5 billion barrels of oil are in Ohio shale, the ballyhooed boom hasn't happened. That's about to change.

Medina's meeting on HF was disappointing. Medina County Gazette. Several attendees walked out and shouted when Mike Chadsey, of Energy in Depth, got up to speak. Energy in Depth is part of the Oil and Gas Association.

Kasich Blasts Out of State Oil and Gas Workers, Drillers Fight Back. WYSO News. The oil and gas boom has brought in lots of activity to eastern Ohio, and perhaps lots of out of state workers. Statehouse correspondent Karen Kasler reports says that's a problem for the governor.

Construction man-hours up for first time since 2005. Youngstown Business Journal. The number of man-hours paid skilled tradesmen by members of the Builders Association of Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania rose in 2012 to its highest level since 2005, construction contractors learned Wednesday night at their annual meeting.

TEXAS

Gas exports could bring Dallas face to face with HF. Dallas Morning News. Low prices have dropped drilling in the Barnett, which is centered in Tarrant County, by more than 80 percent over the last four years. Natural gas exports to hungry markets in Asia could rejuvenate Barnett drillers and bring more of Dallas face to face with the consequences.

UT accepts panel criticism of HF report. Austin American-Statesman. The University of Texas announced Thursday that the head of its Energy Institute resigned and a prominent UT professor retired following findings by an independent panel that excoriated the university and the professor over conflicts of interest involving a controversial report on natural gas exploration. NOTE: Houston Chronicle also reports.

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